

590 YEARS AFTER THE SPEECH OF METROPOLITAN GREGORIUS TSAMBLAK AT THE COUNCIL OF CONSTANCE

The ecumenical Council of Constance was held between 1414 and 1418 and played a very important role in the history of our civilization. It was attended by a big number of high and medium level clergy and many non-clerical people. This Council further established the differences between the Western and Eastern Churches. One of the main tasks was the achieving of unity in the Western Church and overcoming certain reformist trends, defined as heresies. The ideas of John Wycliff and Jan Hus were amongst the ones considered heretic. At these times Bulgaria was already assimilated by the Ottoman Empire and did not exist as an independent country. Thus the Bulgarian Church was represented at the Council indirectly by the orthodox metropolitan of Kiev and Lithuania Gregorius Tsamblak – Bulgarian by birth. He gave speeches in front of the newly elected Pope Martin V and the participants in the Council. In this volume we publish the text of the speech in contemporary Bulgarian language – translation by Maria Spasova of the only transcript which is kept in the library of the Lithuanian Academy of Science, Vilnius, fund 19, No 105; and an article by Dimitar Kenanov dedicated to the life-work of metropolitan Gregorius Tsamblak.